

**AUTOMATED FOCUSING OF ELECTRON IMAGE**

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

One embodiment disclosed relates to a method for automated focusing of an electron image. An EF cut-off voltage is determined. In compensation for a change in the EF cut-off voltage, a focusing condition is adjusted. Adjusting the focusing condition may comprise, for example, adjusting a wafer bias voltage in correspondence to the change in cut-off voltage. Another embodiment disclosed relates to a method for automated focusing of an electron image in a scanning electron imaging apparatus. A focusing condition of a primary electron beam in a first image plane is varied so as to maximize an intensity of a secondary electron beam through an aperture in a second image plane.